

MINUTES OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 20, 1977

The County Council meeting was opened by Chairman Phinney with the opening prayer by Mr. Cox with all Council Members present.

Mrs. Lillie (Mae) Richardson, a resident of Seneca, requested Council make adjustments for tax payers who mailed legal residence declaration statements and they are either lost or, one reason or another, not in the Assessors file. Mr. Crain moved for Budget Director, Richard Lay to contact the S.C. Tax Commission to see if an affidavit would be acceptable in cases like this, and report back at the next Council meeting. Mr. Cox seconded and all Council Members voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Jack Lindsay of the S.C. Insurance Commission discussed the 1% firemans tax rebate due counties. Since Oconee's Rural Fire Departments are not receiving the amount of rebates they are supposed to, Council and Members of the Oconee Rural Fire Board and Volunteer Firemen discussed with Mr. Lindsay ways this could be corrected. Mr. Lindsay stated he would audit the insurance companies as much as possible with his present staff, issue another bulletin to the insurance companies with regard to this, but to audit extensively, he would need more money and personnel. Council unanimously endorsed the county rural fire members in their efforts in making surveys and obtaining data in order to get this situation corrected. Raymond Fendley, Chairman of the Rural Fire Board expressed the need for the expenses of the volunteer firemen who are working on this project. Council requested Mr. Fendley to furnish an estimate of the funds needed.

Mr. William Hagood III, Attorney for the Aeronautics Commission discussed the settlement with Garrison Aviation which was discussed at length after which Mr. Ables moved to proceed with the finalizing of the settlement with the Purchasing Director taking an inventory on October 19. Mr. Bailes seconded and all votes were in favor of the motion. Mr. Frady suggested a member of the aeronautics commission accompany Mr. Gaillard when he makes the inventory. (A copy of the proposed Court Order is attached)

Mr. Devoe Blackston requested Council to use their influence to lower tases. It was explained to Mr. Blackston that the tax ratios used by the County were in compliance with the state law and the Council had no authority to change it.

It was moved by Mr. Moore to change Ordinance 76-2 creating the office of "County Engineer" to "County Building Inspector". Mr. Thomas seconded and the matter was discussed at length by Council and County Attorney Fedder. The vote 7 for and 1 against (Bailes).

Ordinance 77-4, an Ordinance to provide for the issuance of 2.6 million general obligation bonds for hospital expansion was discussed by Mr. Thomas after which he moved to resend it, he, however, withdrew his motion since it was not on the agenda.

Councilman Cox moved to accept the evaluation study recently conducted by COG on several employees which included a \$1455.00 raise for the Personnel Director. All raises to become effective October 1, 1977. Mr. Herring seconded the motion and amended it to be retroactive to July 1, 1977. Mr. Thomas seconded the amendment which was defeated by a vote of 3 for

(Herring, Thomas, Ables) and 4 against (Bailes, Crain, Frady Cox) Mr. Cox's motion was, however, carried by a vote of 4 for (Cox, Herring, Bailes Ables) and 3 against (Frady, Crain and Thomas). Mr. Moore abstained on both the amendment and motion.

Mr. Ables moved, Mr. Crain seconded and it was carried to recommend the following to the Governing Board of the Childrens Home: District # 2 Ms. Ann Yelton, Walhalla, S.C. District #3 Mrs Waymon Hallums Seneca, S.C., District # 4 Mrs Waymon W. Defoor, Westminster, S.C. and District # 5 Mrs Robert J. McNair, Fairplay, S.C. Mr. Ables then moved, Mr. Crain seconded and it was carried to appoint the following to the Aeronautics Commission, each for a two year term: Dr. George R. Bruce, Seneca to replace John Harper, Mike Adams, Seneca to replace T. A. Campbell Jerry Wigington, Salem (reappointment) and Terry Williams, Seneca, S.C. (reappointment).

An additional \$1200.00 for renovations at the childrens home to be paid from the contingency account was approved upon a motion by Mr. Thomas seconded by Mr. Ables and carried. It was also agreed for the Children's Home Committee to study whether to repair or trade in the children's home van.

Mr. Bailes moved to install a telephone line to the new Law Enforcement Center to be placed in the communications department and connected to a teletype (to be furnished by the Commission for the Deaf) to enable the deaf people to call for help in an emergency. The only cost being the telephone installation (approximately \$160.00) and a monthly telephone fee of \$20.00. This motion was seconded by Mr. Moore and unanimously carried.

Mr. Ables moved, Mr. Thomas seconded and it was carried to go into executive session.